



A Brief Overview of Day Care Licensing

A Webinar for the Early Learning Council

February 27, 2013

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Licensed Day Care Centers

As of 2/5/13:

3,189 licensed day care centers

NORTHERN	940
CENTRAL	530
SOUTHERN	345
COOK	1,374

Licensed Day Care Homes

- As of 2/5/13

9,499 licensed homes:

8780 licensed day care homes

719 licensed group day care homes



Day Care Staff are not housed in every DCFS office.

To find out the Licensing office serving you, please call the Day Care Information Line.

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What is a Day Care Home?

- Must be your own home where you and your family live
- Your own children under age 12 count in your capacity
- Watch local ordinances, zoning and homeowners association requirements
- Orientation online for homes available at www.state.il.us/dcfs/index.shtml
(click on icon on far-right)

Day Care Home types and capacities

- Day Care Home:
 - up to 8 children
- Group Day Care Home:
 - Up to 12 children

Both allow an Additional 4 School-Age children
with presence of qualified assistant(s) and
preapproval from Dept.

What is a day care center?

- *"Day care center" means any child care facility which regularly provides day care for less than 24 hours per day for more than 8 children in a family home or more than 3 children in a facility other than a family home, including senior citizen buildings.*

What is NOT subject to licensure? (exceptions)

- *programs operated by public or private elementary school systems or secondary level school units or institutions of higher learning that serve children who shall have attained the age of 3 years; or*
- *private entities on the grounds of public or private elementary or secondary schools that serve children who have attained the age of 3 years, except that this exception applies only to the facility and not to the private entities' personnel operating the program;*
- *programs or that portion of the program which serves children who shall have attained the age of 3 years and which are recognized by the State Board of Education;*
- *educational program or programs serving children who shall have attained the age of 3 years and which are operated by a school which is registered with the State Board of Education and which is recognized or accredited by a recognized national or multi-state educational organization or association which regularly recognizes or accredits schools;*

Exceptions (continued)

- *programs which exclusively serve or that portion of the program which serves **handicapped children** who shall have attained the age of 3 years but are less than 21 years of age and which are **registered** and approved as meeting standards of the **State Board of Education** and applicable fire marshal standards;*
- *facilities operated in connection with a shopping center or service, religious services or other similar facility where transient children are cared for temporarily while **parents or custodians** of the children are occupied **on the premises and readily available**;*
- *any type of day care center that is conducted on **federal government premises**;*
- ***special activities** programs, including athletics, crafts instruction and similar activities conducted on an organized and periodic basis by **civic, charitable and governmental organizations**;*

Exceptions (continued)

- *part day child care facilities, as defined in Section 2.10 of the Child Care Act of 1969 (“a facility conducted by a church, religious organization or social service agency in which individual children are provided care, on an intermittent basis, for up to 10 hours per 7 day week and which has notified the Department of its operation in accordance with Section 377.4)*

OR...

- *programs or that portion of the program which:*
 - *serves children who shall have attained the age of 3 years,*
 - *is operated by churches or religious institutions as described in section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code,*
 - *receives no governmental aid,*
 - *is operated as a component of religious, nonprofit elementary school,*
 - *operates primarily to provide religious education, and*
 - *meets appropriate State or local health and fire safety standards*



What governs Day Care Licensure?

- Illinois Child Care Act

<http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/policy/index.shtml>

click on “Laws” tab

- Rule 377 Facilities exempt from Licensure
- Rule 407 Day Care Licensing Standards
- Rule 406 Day Care Home Licensure
- Rule 408 Group Day Care Home Licensure
- Rule 385 Background Checks
- Rule 383 Enforcement

http://www.state.il.us/dcfs/policy/pr_policy_rules.shtml

Becoming Licensed

- Application period
- Permit period
- Full Licensure
 - Monitoring
 - Renewal
 - Enforcement



Application

- Consult with local R&R for needs assessment
- Do not spend ANY money yet!
- Contact local DCFS Licensing office and speak to a licensing representative
- Consultation's a MUST!
- Orientation (indiv. or group)
- Submit complete application
- Be familiar with the Standards and what's expected of you
- Realistic time-frames

Background Checks

- Mandatory for all center staff who may have unsupervised access to children, all members of the household and assistants for homes.
- Accurate Biometrics is the ONLY approved fingerprint vendor for DCFS purposes.
- Website to check if employees have already been printed
- Cannot be used as a hiring tool or to qualify potential employees.



Permit Phase

- Compliance with Rule 407
- Ready to operate prior to recommendation
- Site visit required
- Permit issued for 6 months for centers
- Full compliance and good history = full license

Full License and Monitoring

- 3 year period
- Compliance with standards
- 60 day monitoring
- Annual monitoring
- Complaint investigations
- Consultation visit

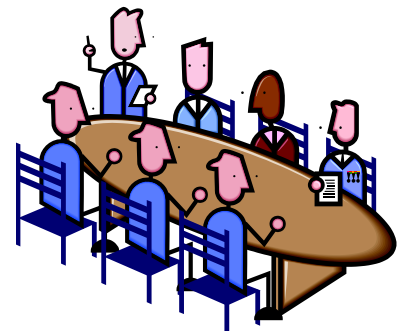


Appointment or Unannounced?

- Initials and Renewals = appointments provider give opportunity to “be seen in their best light.”
- Monitoring and complaints = unannounced
Truest picture of typical functioning of the facility.
- Amendments and consultation = either

Updating Rule 407

- Phase III, one-year project, meet weekly
- Reduce redundancy, more efficient language, check statute citations
- Write Procedures for DCLRs to use
- DCFS Licensing, Office of Child and Family Policy, Legal and DCFS Day Care Advisory Council

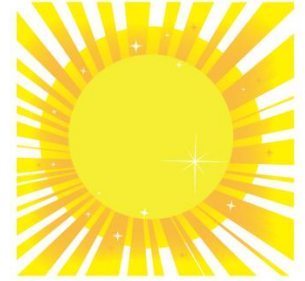


Licensing and QRIS

- Licensure = automatic Level 1
- Embed improved quality into licensing standards through input from Day Care Advisory Council and other stakeholder groups
- Encourage participation in by and benefits of QRIS for providers, parents and children



The Sunshine Website



<http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/sunshine/Pages/default.aspx> right-hand
column, “child care facility inspections”

- Information to public re: licensed providers
- Search functions by name, city, zip code
- Basic demographic info
- Info on violations in past year
- Mirrors toll-free Day Care Information Line
(1-877-746-0829)

Comparing IL to other states

- Rule more stringent
- State-wide basis not county-by-county
- On-line information available for public
- NACCRRA ranks IL #4 in the nation for child care program requirements and oversight (2011 “We CAN Do Better” publication)

Resources

- DCFS website: www.state.il.us/dcfs
- Day Care Information Line: 1-877-746-0829
- Fingerprint search website: <https://fingerprintsearch.dcf.illinois.gov/>
- INCCRRA: www.inccrra.org
- Gateways to Opportunity: www.ilgateways.com
- Fingerprint Vendor: www.accuratebiometrics.com
- NAEYC: www.naeyc.org
- SIDS of Illinois: www.sidsillinois.org
- Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov

